

European Communities

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 13, 14 and 15 September 1977

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-166/77)

Subject: Financing of associations

Can the Commission say whether financial support of the kind granted to promote Euro-Arab cooperation is extended to other associations? Would it not agree that steps should be taken to ensure that such financing is not used for propagandist or political ends liable to influence the decisions taken by the Community?

2. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-193/77)

Subject : Representation of member states in an enlarged
Community

To ask the Commission whether they will make a statement on their consideration of whether in an enlarged Community all Member States will continue to enjoy the same rights as in the past regarding automatic continuous representation in all the organs of the Community, including the Council and the Commission, or whether it should be assumed that the need to limit the growth of the institutions of the Community may necessitate some modification of the norms hitherto observed regarding the representation of member states in the Community's institutions?

3. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-169/77)

Subject : Community policy on sea-borne trade

What measures are being taken by the Commission to devise and implement a Community policy on sea-borne trade, with a view to assisting Community shipping concerns to meet the threat posed by Soviet practices in this sector?

4. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-185/77)

Subject : Uranium Prospecting in the European Community

Would the Commission state what progress has been made in the prospection for uranium ores in the European Community for which Parliament voted financial aid under Article 321 of the Commission's Budget for 1977?

5. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-186/77)

Subject : Uranium supplies

Recent press reports indicate that mining of uranium ore in Australia will resume during 1978 and that commercial deposits have been discovered near Manaus, in Brazil.

Will the Commission submit proposals to the Parliament and Council for political and economic initiatives with these countries that will pave the way either to a cooperation agreement, or better still a treaty, enabling these fundamental energy materials to benefit their economies and that of the European Community?

6. Question by Mr EVANS (H-190/77)

Subject : Community research expenditure

Will the Commission state what proportion of Community research expenditure was spent in each of the nine Member States on both direct and indirect projects during 1976?

7. Question by Mr BROWN (H-196/77)

Subject : Nuclear-generated electricity capacity

Does the Commission consider that the Community's projected inability to reach the target of 160 GW of nuclear-generated electricity capacity by 1985 is to a large extent due to continuing uncertainty over the advisability of constructing and operating light-water reactors of the pressurised and boiling-water types and, if so, has consideration been

given to advising the construction and operation of advanced gas-cooled reactors as a stop-gap before the new generation of fast-breeder reactors are introduced?

8. Question by Mr MITCHELL (H-199/77)

Subject : Nuclear fuel re-processing in the Channel Islands

Is the Commission aware of the great concern of many people in the Channel Islands at the plans to expand the nuclear fuel re-processing works and to build a park of light-water reactors at the Cap de la Hague and, if so, what steps is it prepared to take to ensure that the anxieties of the Channel Islanders are properly represented before the responsible French authorities?

9. Question by Mr NOE' (H-201/77)

Subject: Utilization of wind energy

Does the Commission not feel that the construction of a prototype electricity-generating plant using solar energy - scheduled for the near future - should be accompanied by tests with a plant of comparable output utilizing wind energy, so as to permit comparisons to be made at an early stage?

10. Question by Mr ZYWIETZ (H-187/77)

Subject: World uranium cartel

Can the Commission explain how the existence of a world uranium cartel, to which two firms from Community Member States are also party, can be reconciled with the Euratom Treaty, which provides for a common supply policy and, particularly in Article 68 of the Treaty, prohibits pricing practices designed to secure a privileged position, and what reactions does the Commission consider proper and practicable now that this situation has come to light?

11. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-212/77)

Subject : Commission proposals on multinational undertakings

Can the Commission describe the present situation regarding the proposals it announced in the draft regulation submitted to the Council¹ on the measures to be taken by the Community on the control of concentrations between undertakings, particularly multinationals.

12. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-195/77)

Subject : Liberalisation of Insurance

Is the Commission satisfied with progress towards the creation of a true common market for insurance?

13. Question by Mr CAILLAVET (H-188/77)

Object: Commercial support for European projects

At a time when a number of European projects such as 'Concorde' and 'Superphoenix', fully satisfactory from the technical point of view, are encountering difficulties, due largely to the absence of a realistic Community commercial policy, does the Commission intend, in accordance with the purposes for which it was set up, to adopt a more forceful and innovative approach? What proposals could it bring forward in these circumstances?

14. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-204/77)

Subject : Travel by citizens of the Community

What is the Commission doing to encourage travel by citizens of the Community between member countries of the Community?

¹ COM (73) 1210 final

15. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-198/77)

Subject : European Development Fund

What assurances can the Commission give that the number of staff in the Directorate General responsible for Regional Policy will be adequate to deal with the tasks arising out of the new European Development Fund?

16. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-211/77)

Subject : Use of dioxin - the Seveso disaster Chemical -
as weedkiller in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that a weed-killer containing dioxin - the Seveso disaster chemical - is used in Ireland and, if so, is it satisfied that the safety regulations regarding its use are adequate, or will it consider the advisability of proposing the suspension in the Community of the use of this or any other product containing dioxin, until such time as the proposed directive on dangerous industrial activities has been adopted and implemented?

17. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-202/77)

Subject: Negotiations between President Carter's representative
and the Commission spokesmen

What are the Commission's views on the talks that have recently taken place between President Carter's special representative for trade negotiations, Mr Robert STRAUSS, and the spokesmen for the Commission of the European Communities, particularly as regards the prospects for the GATT negotiations, and is it true that the Commission and Mr Strauss have agreed that the negotiations should be speeded up and not slowed down?

18. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-206/77)

Subject: Dumping of electric motors by East European countries

Is the Commission aware of the serious difficulties faced by manufacturers of electric motors in various Member States as a result of the dumping of electric motors by East European countries, which in some cases are sold at prices barely exceeding the cost of the raw materials used for electric motors manufactured in the Community, and will it take action against this practice?

19. Question by Mr MEINTZ (H-223/77)

Subject: EEC steel imports from Eastern Europe

Has the Commission decided on any action in connection with the growing volume of steel imports from Eastern Europe at prices lower than those of the Community?

20. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-207/77)

Subject : Green currency system

Is the Commission now in a position to outline its proposals on phasing out the green currency system following discussions with the Council and will the Commission now state by what date it is hoped that the green currency system will be eliminated.

21. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-209/77)

Subject: Mediterranean agriculture

Can the Commission state when it will submit the report requested by the Council of Ministers on Mediterranean agriculture?

22. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-217/77)

Subject : Cheese imports from New Zealand

Is the Commission considering measures which would allow imports of New Zealand cheese into the Community after December 31, 1977 ?

23. Question by Mr NYBØRG (H-219/77)

Subject: Devaluation of the Danish green krone

Does the Commission intend to accept devaluation of the Danish green krone in line with that of the Danish krone? If not, why not?

24. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-166/77)

Subject: Council's legislative deliberations

Does the President-in-Office share the anxiety expressed by this House over the past months at the lack of openness of the Council's legislative deliberations?

25. Question by Mr FEIT (H-225/77)

Subject: The United Kingdom and direct elections

Is it desirable that direct elections be held without the British, should they be unable to finalize their electoral procedure by May-June 1978, and would this be compatible with Article 138 of the Treaty of Rome (uniform procedure) and Article 9 of the Act of 20 September 1976 (same period)?

26. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-227/77)

Subject : Direct elections

Does the Council agree with the French Government and the author of this question that Article 138 (3) of the EEC Treaty, and Article 9 of the Council Act of 20 September 1976 make it impossible to hold European elections in 1978 unless they take place in all Member States (e.g. not just in 8 out of the 9 Member States) ?

27. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-178/77)

Subject : International Air Services

In view of the satisfactory re-negotiation of the Bermuda Agreement on 21 June 1977, and bearing in mind the existence of a great number of bilateral agreements concerning international air services, would the Council not agree that a co-ordinated Community approach at international discussions of this type would be desirable?

28. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-180/77)

Subject : Permanent seat for European Parliament

Can the Council make a statement on the various views expressed on this question at the June meeting in London of the Nine political Heads of State, and say whether consideration will be given to fixing a definitive date by which the Parliament might be permanently established in Brussels, in the same way as a definitive date was set for the holding of direct elections.

29. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-189/77)

Subject: Common transport policy

Can the Council explain what impression it intended to create amongst the public when, referring to the outcome of the Council's exchange of views of 28 June 1977, the first for a considerable time, on questions concerning aims and priorities of the common transport policy, it says in its press release (Doc. 791/77, Press 86), : 'The debate gave the delegations the opportunity to express their satisfaction or concern at developments in the common transport policy', and does the Council believe that this item of information offers a tenable basis for taking investment decisions in such an important sector of the economy as transport during a period of economic recovery?

30. Question by Mr EVANS (H-191/77)

Subject : Regional Policy Review

What procedure does the President envisage for the consideration of the reform of the Regional Policy, proposed by the Commission. In particular can the President state which specialist ministers will be present when the matter is discussed in the Council?

31. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-194/77)

Subject : Representation of member states in an enlarged
Community

To ask the Council whether they will make a statement on their consideration of whether in an enlarged Community all Member States will continue to enjoy the same rights as in the past regarding automatic continuous representation in all the organs of the Community, including the Council and the Commission, or whether it should be assumed that the need to limit the growth of the institutions of the Community may necessitate some modification of the norms hitherto observed regarding the representation of Member States in the Community's institutions?

32. Question by Mr MASULLO (H-197/77)

Subject : Problems of university education

Would the Council of Ministers of the European Community not agree that use should be made of the informal consultation procedure for matters not governed by the Treaties to promote Community harmonization and planning of university education, with a view to preventing the introduction of restrictive measures by individual Member States from jeopardizing the principle of free cultural exchange and the development of scientific, technical and professional training?

33. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-200/77)

Subject: Community consultation procedure in respect of nuclear power
stations sited in frontier regions

Does the Council intend to adopt at an early date the Commission proposal of 13 December 1976¹ concerning the introduction of a Community consultation procedure in respect of the building and siting of nuclear power stations, having regard to the need to allay the growing sense of uneasiness among the general public and, more especially, among people living in the frontier regions of the Member States?

¹ OJ No. C 31, 8.2.1977

34. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-203/77)

Subject : Travel by citizens of the Community

What is the Council doing to encourage travel by citizens of the Community between member countries of the Community?

35. Question by Mr GIRAUD (H-205/77)

Subject: Difference between a proposal adopted 'with reservations' and one adopted 'ad referendum'

Further to my speech during a recent debate of a plenary sitting, what is the difference, from the legal and practical points of view, between a government accepting a proposal 'with reservations' and accepting it 'ad referendum'?

36. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-213/77)

Subject : Action on the Commission's communication on multinational undertakings of 1973

What action does the Council intend to take on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities on multinational undertakings including a Draft Regulation¹, and when will this action be taken bearing in mind that the document dates back to 1973.

37. Question by Mrs EWING (H-214/77)

Subject : Common Fishing Policy

Will the President-in-Office of the Council make a statement on latest developments in the Community's Common Fishing Policy.

¹ COM (73) 1210 final

38. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-216/77)

Subject : Operation of the European snake

Does not the Council feel that the exchange parity adjustment of the Scandinavian currencies is likely to jeopardize the non-Scandinavian currencies that remain unchanged alongside the German mark in the European snake and, consequently, the latter's very existence?

39. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-218/77)

Subject : Legality of coresponsibility levy

Has the Council considered the legality of the coresponsibility levy following the judgment by the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Cases 114/76, 116/76, 119/76 and 120/76 which declared illegal Council Regulation No. 563/76 on the compulsory purchase of skimmed-milk powder for use in feeding stuffs ?

40. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-220/77)

Subject: World population increase

Will the Council encourage the Commission to put forward proposals for a Community initiative aimed at halting the increase in world population, which is endangering man's existence?

41. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-222/77)

Subject: Import licences in the iron and steel sector

Has the Council made representations to the Governments of the Member States to the effect that each of them, in accordance with the Davignon Plan, should keep the Commission regularly informed of the value and number of licences they have granted and of actual imports of iron and steel products?

42. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-226/77)

Subject : Greek application for membership

Does the Council maintain the position laid down in june 1975 in the context of greece's application for EEC membership, namely that no new accession must damage the community's common projects or reduce the effectiveness of its institutions and that before any such accession the institutions must be strengthened to cope with the problems posed by enlargement ?

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

43. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-181/77)

Subject : Middle East policy

Can the Foreign Ministers say what progress has been made in formulating a common policy on the Arab-Israeli problem; do the Nine agree with the recent proposals put forward by President Carter; and if not, in what ways does the EEC view differ?

44. Question by Sir Derek WALKER-SMITH (H-183/77)

Subject : Seats for non-smokers

To ask the foreign ministers whether they are aware that only two out of nine Member States have airlines represented within the thirteen airlines offering half or more seats to non-smokers; and whether suitable exhortations can be addressed to the other seven Member States to improve their performance in this respect in the interests of the health and well-being of their own nationals and that of the travelling public in the Community as a whole.

45. Question by Mrs EWING (H-184/77/rev.)

Subject : Soviet Jews

To ask the Foreign Ministers what conclusions they reached at their meeting on 12 July 1977, in the framework of their preparations for the Belgrade Conference, as regards the right of the individual to leave his or her country if he or she chooses to do so, with particular reference to Soviet Jews, and with particular reference to the case of Mr. Wulf Zalmanson, a political prisoner in the USSR; and what common attitude the Foreign Ministers have now decided to adopt at the Belgrade Conference.

46. Question by Mr PRICE (H-192/77)

Subject : Capital investments in South Africa and Namibia

To ask the Foreign Ministers what studies they have made of capital investments in South Africa and Namibia by the member countries of the Nine, and whether they will urge each respective member state to assess such investments and withdraw from those that they have already made.

47. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-208/77)

Subject: Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Can the Council state whether the conduct and outcome of the meeting in Belgrade may be considered satisfactory and whether they augur well for the progress which public opinion expects of the conference which is to open on 4 October and which constitutes one of the most important factors in East-West detente?

48. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-221/77)

Subject : EEC and apartheid

What progress has been made to date in establishing an EEC programme to erode apartheid in South Africa?